



General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2011

Sociology

41901

Unit 1

Wednesday 15 June 2011 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is 41901.
- This paper is divided into **three** Topic Areas.
Topic 1: Answer **all** questions.
Topic 2: Answer **all** questions in Section 1 **and one** question from Section 2.
Topic 3: Answer **all** questions in Section 3 **and one** question from Section 4.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- Questions carrying 12 marks should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 30 minutes answering each of the three topics.

Topic 1: Studying Society

You must answer **all** questions on this topic.

Total for this topic: 30 marks

Study **Items A, B and C** and answer the questions that follow.

Item A

Truancy and exam results: England – 2007

Percentage who:	Achieved 5 or more GCSEs at A* – C	Achieved no GCSEs
Persistently truanted in Year 11	13	20
Occasionally truanted in Year 11	49	4
Never truanted in Year 11	67	3

Item B

School experiences and pupil attendance

A recent study by Heather Malcolm found that many truants said the reasons they missed school was due to being bullied, boring lessons, problems with teachers and peer pressure. The research found that 16% of secondary school pupils admitted truanting from school.

Information was collected from 17 schools from various parts of England. The research was obtained from questionnaires completed by over 650 pupils.

- 0 1** From **Item A**, what percentage of persistent truants did not achieve any GCSEs? (1 mark)
- 0 2** From **Item B**, identify the research method used by Heather Malcolm. (1 mark)
- 0 3** Give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using the research method you have identified in **0 2** above. (2 marks)

Item C

School absence is highest in the poorest areas



Government figures show that persistent absence from school is five times higher in England's poorest areas. In 2009, 6% of children in the most socially deprived areas were persistently absent compared with just 1% of children in the wealthiest areas. Similar patterns have been found in Scotland and Wales.

The government defines persistent absence as missing at least one fifth (1/5) of the available school sessions for any reason, including truancy. It believes the link between attendance and exam results is important and has spent more than £1.4 billion on anti-truancy drives.

- 0 4** Study **Item C**. Describe how sociologists may approach a study of truancy and explain how this might differ from the approach of psychologists. (4 marks)
- 0 5** Explain what sociologists mean by social deprivation. (4 marks)
- 0 6** Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help educational authorities to design policies to reduce truancy in Britain. (4 marks)

You have been asked as a sociologist to investigate truancy amongst secondary school pupils.

- 0 7** Identify what sociologists mean by official statistics **and** explain how useful these might be for your investigation. (4 marks)
- 0 8** Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain why you need to consider this ethical issue for this investigation. (4 marks)
- 0 9** Identify **one** sampling method that you would use **and** explain why it is better than another possible sampling technique for obtaining a representative sample. (6 marks)

Turn over ►

Topic 2: Education

Answer **all** questions in **Section 1** and **one** question from **Section 2**.

Total for this topic: 30 marks

Study **Items D and E** and answer the questions that follow.

Item D

White working class boys 'failing'

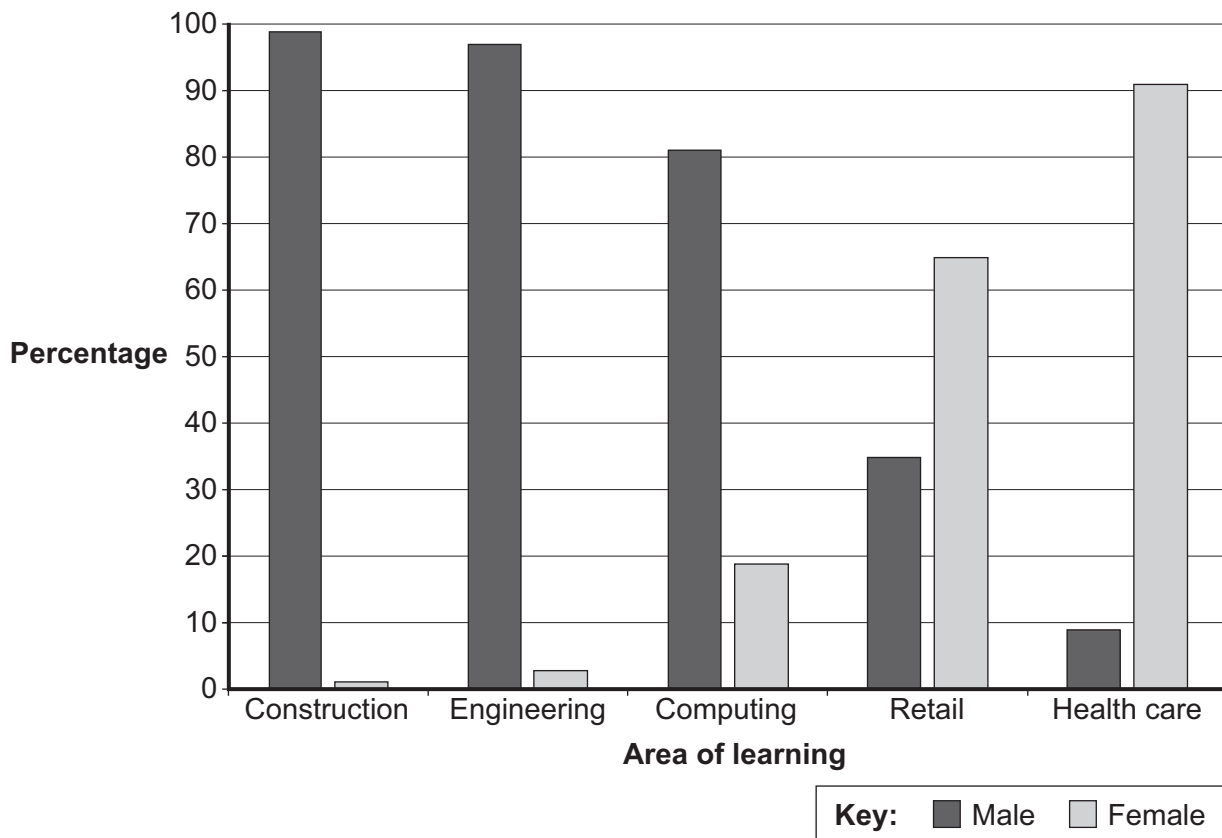
Government figures show that in 2008 only 15% of white working class boys in England gained five GCSEs with grades A* to C, including English and Maths. This compares with 25% of black boys, 32% of Indian boys and 44% of Chinese boys of similar backgrounds.

The national average for all pupils achieving five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and Maths, was 46%.

Source: www.news.bbc.co.uk

Item E

Young people aged 16–24 in work-based learning: England 2006



Source: www.dcf.gov.uk

Section 1

- 1 0** From **Item D**, what percentage of Indian working class boys achieved five GCSEs at A* to C grades, including English and Maths? (1 mark)
- 1 1** From **Item E**, which area of learning had the highest percentage of females? (1 mark)
- 1 2** Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of the publication of school league tables. (2 marks)
- 1 3** Explain what sociologists mean by vocationalism in education. (4 marks)
- 1 4** Describe **one** way in which schools attempt to encourage a sense of what it means to be British **and** explain how this may help to improve social cohesion. (5 marks)
- 1 5** Describe **one** government policy of the last 20 years which has attempted to widen the range of young people participating in post-16 education. Explain how this policy may or may not have increased educational opportunities. (5 marks)

Section 2**EITHER**

- 1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that a student's ethnic background is the main reason for differences in educational achievement. (12 marks)

OR

- 1 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that peer group pressure has a significant effect on a student's choice of subjects at school and of courses at college. (12 marks)

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic 3: Families

Answer **all** questions in **Section 3** and **one** question from **Section 4**.

Total for this topic: 30 marks

Study **Items F and G** and answer the questions that follow.

Item F

A survey asked men and women who had partners to report on their partner's contribution to laundry and shopping for groceries. The results are shown below.

Household tasks	Percentage (%) of respondents who reported 'Always' done by the woman			
	1994		2006	
	Men %	Women %	Men %	Women %
Laundry	77	84	71	80
Shopping for groceries	39	45	38	45

Item G

**Families with dependent children: by ethnic group and family type
United Kingdom – 2008**

Ethnic group	Percentage living as:		
	Married couple	Cohabiting couple	Lone parent
White	63	14	23
Asian	87	1	12
Black	46	6	48
Mixed	48	13	39

Section 3

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
|---|---|

 From **Item F**, what percentage of men with partners in 2006 reported that laundry was always done by the woman? (1 mark)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 9 |
|---|---|

 From **Item G**, which ethnic group has the **lowest** percentage of dependent children living in a lone parent family? (1 mark)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 0 |
|---|---|

 Identify **two** reasons why there has been an increase in the percentage of children living in lone parent families in the last 30 years or so. (2 marks)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 1 |
|---|---|

 Explain what sociologists mean by a reconstituted family. (4 marks)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 2 |
|---|---|

 Describe **one** way in which relations between parents and children have changed in the last 30 years or so **and** explain why this change has happened. (5 marks)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 3 |
|---|---|

 Describe the feminist approach to the family **and** explain how this approach is different from other sociological approaches. (5 marks)

Section 4**EITHER**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 4 |
|---|---|

 Discuss how far sociologists would agree that there is equality between men and women in the family. (12 marks)

OR

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 5 |
|---|---|

 Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the wider extended family is becoming less important in society today. (12 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

- Item A: *Youth Cohort Study*, National Statistics, 2008. Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence.
Item B: *Absence from School*, www.teachernet.gov.uk, 2003. Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence.
Item C: BBC News at www.bbc.co.uk/news, 2009. Photograph © Getty Images.
Item D: BBC News at www.bbc.co.uk/news, 2008.
Item E: *Further Education and Work Based Learning for Young People*, National Statistics, 2007.
Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence.
Item F: *British Social Attitudes 24th Report*, National Centre for Social Research, 2008.
Item G: *Social Trends 39*, 2009. Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence.